IND.

MY OWN ROMANCE

69 MAY

My own ROMANCE

10¢

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

YOUR HEART WILL THRILL AS YOU READ... "I LOVE YOU, MR. JONES!"

"CAN A SHY GIRL FIND ROMANCE?"

WHO WAS "THE MAN FOR MARY COLLINS?"

draw me

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BEN AND I HAD BEEN SWEETHEARTS FOR A LONG TIME! HE TOOK EVERYTHING SERIOUSLY AND OUR DATES WERE ALWAYS QUIET AFFAIRS! AND SOMETIMES I WONDERED IF LOVE WAS REALLY THIS SERIOUS, ..IF IT WASN'T SOMETIMES A THING OF LIGHTNESS AND FUN! IT WAS THIS WONDERING THAT LED ME TO TROUBLE, AND THE QUESTION: *WHO* WAS...

The MAN for MARY COLLINS

BEN...

OUT WITH BEN, MARY?

YES, DAD!

A FINE, SERIOUS BOY, BEN! HE'LL GO A LONG WAY! DOESN'T THINK EVERYTHING'S A JOKE LIKE MOST OF THE YOUNG FELLOWS THESE DAYS!

YES, BEN IS FINE, AND SERIOUS! BUT... IF HE'D ONLY BE A LITTLE LESS SERIOUS ONCE IN A WHILE, EVEN A LITTLE GAY AND WILD...

LOVE SHOULD BE A DANCING ON CLOUDS A...A GAY, MAD WHIRL OF ROMANCE! IT'S TIME ENOUGH TO BE SERIOUS AFTER MARRIAGE! BUT BEN TAKES EVERYTHING SERIOUSLY, LOVE, THE FUTURE... EVERYTHING!

THE NEXT EVENING BEN PICKED ME UP AFTER WORK TO TAKE ME TO DINNER! ONCE A WEEK WE HAD DINNER TOGETHER IN A LITTLE RESTAURANT OFF THE SQUARE!

HELLO, DARLING!

HELLO, BEN!

RAY, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME!

BEN! BEN RUSSELL, YOU OLD STICK-IN-THE-MUD!

MARY, MEET RAY CONROY, AN OLD CLASSMATE OF MINE!

BEN, YOU OLD DEVIL YOU! KEEPING SUCH A BEAUTY TO YOURSELF! THE OLD ADAGE MUST BE TRUE, Y'KNOW, ABOUT DISTILLED WATERS RUNNING DEEP!

RAY INSISTED WE JOIN HIM AND HIS FRIENDS! HE WAS HANDSOME, GAY AND WITTY, A BORN COMEDIAN!

SO I SAID TO HIM, "MISTER, A WYATT EARP YOU AIN'T!"

LISTEN, LET'S GET OUT OF THIS MORGUE! I KNOW A PLACE THAT'S LOADS OF FUN! CLEAN, TOO! YOU CAN EAT OFF THE FLOOR! OF COURSE THE TABLES ARE A MESS...

YOU KIDS GO AHEAD! MARY AND I...

BEN'S PROTESTS WERE OVERWHELMED BY RAY, AND I WAS GLAD! I WAS HAVING A LOT OF FUN!

COME ON, MARY, DANCE WITH ME! WE'LL TRIP THE LIGHT FANTASTIC...AND WITH ME, WE'LL REALLY BE TRIPPING, YOU CAN BELIEVE IT!

YOU'RE WONDERFUL! LOVELY TO LOOK AT, DELIGHTFUL TO DANCE WITH AND I'LL BET YOU EVEN COOK LIKE MOTHER USED TO! CONFIDENTIALLY THOUGH, MOTHER WAS THE LOUSIEST COOK...

HE HAD A FEY CHARM THAT MADE EVEN THE RUSTIEST OLD JOKE SEEM NEW AND HILARIOUS! I NEVER LAUGHED SO MUCH IN MY LIFE BEFORE!

WE'VE GOT TO BE GOING, RAY!

WHAT, SO SOON? I'M DESOLATE, FORLORN, DISCONSOLATE, I'M EVEN SAD! BUT I'LL SEE YOU ANON...OR IS IT MARY? ANYWAY, I'LL SEE YOU!

BEN TOOK ME HOME AND KISSED ME GOOD NIGHT!

AND THAT NIGHT I DREAMED OF RAY, HIS LAUGHTER, HIS GAY CHARM AND CONSTANT HUMOR!

AND THE NEXT NIGHT, WHEN THE DOORBELL RANG, IT WAS... RAY!

IF I'M OUT OF BREATH DON'T BLAME IT ALL ON YOUR LOVELINESS! A COP CAUGHT ME PICKING THESE FLOWERS AND CHASED ME FOR BLOCKS!

RAY, YOU... YOU'RE INCURABLE! I THOUGHT IT WAS BEN!

HONEY, YOU CAN'T TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY BECAUSE HE TAKES HIMSELF TOO SERIOUSLY AND TO BE SERIOUS ABOUT IT... OH, LET'S DROP THE WHOLE THING! COME ON! LET BEN STEW IN HIS OWN SERIOUS STEW!

YES, I WENT WITH RAY THAT NIGHT AND FOR MANY NIGHTS AFTER THAT! IT WAS GAY, MAD AND WONDERFUL!

DARLING, I LOVE YOU MADLY, PROBABLY BECAUSE I'M A LITTLE MAD ANYWAY! LET'S GET MARRIED AND RAISE A BUNCH OF LITTLE JOKERS!

RAY, I... GIVE ME A LITTLE TIME... TIME TO THINK...

IT WAS A QUIET NIGHT AND THE CRASH AND GROAN FROM THE HOUSE WAS UNMISTAKABLE! WE RAN INSIDE!

IT'S BROKEN ALL RIGHT! THAT BLASTED LADDER! BEN, IF YOU HADN'T BROKEN MY FALL IT COULD'VE BEEN MY BACK OR MY HEAD!

I'LL CARRY YOU TO THE BEDROOM AND THEN CALL THE DOCTOR!

WE WAITED IN THE LIVING ROOM WHILE THE DOCTOR EXAMINED DAD'S LEG!

WELL, HONEY, ONE THING FOR SURE, YOUR OLD MAN CERTAINLY GETS THE BREAKS!

HE'S WORRIED ABOUT THE STORE, MARY! I TOLD HIM I'D TAKE OVER UNTIL HE WAS WELL ENOUGH TO COME BACK!

THAT REMINDS ME OF THE GAG ABOUT THE OLD FELLOW WHO WAS DYING! WHEN THEY ASKED FOR HIS LAST WORDS HE LOOKED AROUND, SAW ALL THE FAMILY THERE AND SAID, "WHO'S MINDING THE STORE?"

RAY!

WHAT YOU ASKED ME TONIGHT...THE ANSWER IS "NO"! LIFE ISN'T ALL LAUGHS AS YOU MAKE IT OUT TO BE! IF I WANT COMEDY I CAN TURN ON THE TV SET... AND IF I DON'T WANT IT, I CAN TURN IT OFF... SOMETHING YOU CAN'T DO! GOODBYE, RAY!

RAY LEFT! I TURNED TO BEN, THE SHAME OF HOW I HAD TREATED HIM, BURNING IN ME, FED BY THE FLAME OF MY LOVE FOR HIM!

BEN....!

DON'T SAY IT, MARY! YOU WERE TAKEN IN BY THE GAYETY AND LAUGHTER YOU THOUGHT YOU NEEDED!

BUT, I'M A PATIENT MAN! I KNEW YOU'D DISCOVER THE SHALLOWNESS AND EMPTINESS BEHIND THE LAUGHTER! YOU'RE TOO FINE A GIRL TO BE FOOLED BY CHEAPNESS FOR LONG!

OH, BEN...

HIS ARMS TIGHTENED AROUND ME, HIS LIPS MET MINE AND... IT WAS LIKE COMIN' HOME AGAIN, AND I KNEW THAT BEN AND ONLY BEN, WAS THE MAN FOR ME FOREVER AND EVER!

THE END

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF

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2. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.)

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4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.

5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was: (This information is required from daily, weekly, semiweekly, and triweekly newspapers only.)

(Signed) MARTIN GOODMAN.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1st day of October, 1958.

(SEAL) RUTH NEWMAN

Notary Public, State of New York
No. 24-2882000
Qualified in Kings County
Certificate Filed in New York County
Commission Expires March 30, 1959

I'LL BE WAITING

WHEN Victoria moved next door ten years ago, I was just a freckled-faced kid with skinny legs and a yearning tó be a cow poke. And Victoria—she was the prettiest little girl I had ever seen. She was shy then and nobody would have guessed she would blossom into the most beautiful bundle of whistle-appeal in our town.

But that's how things go. You never know what's going to happen. At our high school graduation dance, Vicki danced exclusively with me. She wouldn't even let Roger Baker cut in, and any girl in the senior class would have given her newly acquired diploma for the privilege of dancing with Jamestown's one and only football star to end his career unbeaten.

After the dance that night, I asked Victoria to become officially engaged to me.

"And four years isn't as long as it sounds," I added, my heart pounding with fear that she might refuse.

"But, Johnny, we're both too young to be tied down. Goodness, you haven't even dated anyone but me for five years. It wouldn't be fair to you and. . . ."

"You mean it wouldn't be fair to *you*, don't you, Vicki," I interrupted. "I know. You're the one going to college, not I. You're right . . . it wouldn't be fair to ask you not to have the kind of college life other girls have. I'm selfish, completely selfish because I love you so much," I said, clenching my fists. It was hard to let her go like this, knowing she would meet plenty of fellows with money who could give her the kind of life she was accustomed to.

That had always been the big barrier between Vicki and me. She was Victoria Sandford whose father made a fortune during the war. Gerald Sandford bought the Pickens place up on the hill nad when Vicki moved away from Garden Street she moved to another planet, at least insofar as I was considered proper husband material. Although Vicki never breathed a word about it, I knew she had been asked, if not ordered, to break off our relationship.

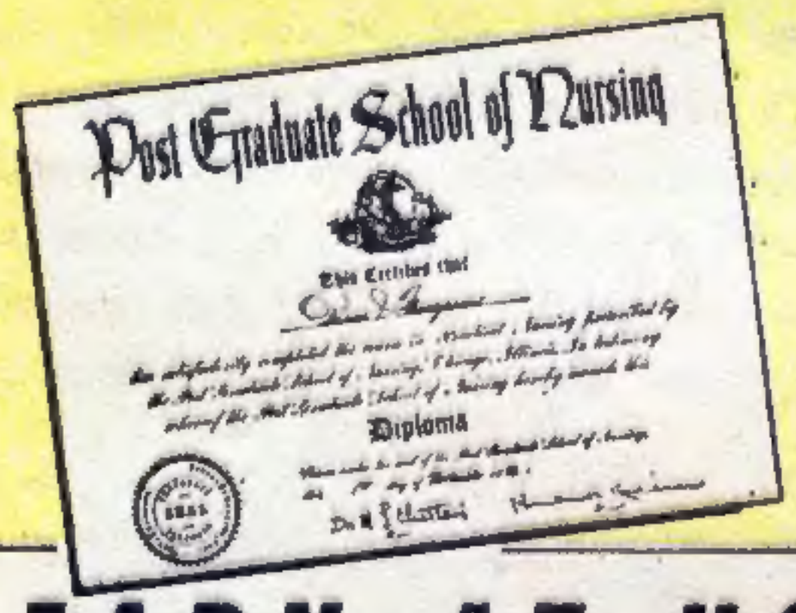
But that shy little girl with the coal black pigtails had a will of her own. I looked at her now, with a mass of shiny, black ringlets framing her small face. She returned my intense gaze with those large violet eyes that had made every male heart in Jamestown take a double flip.

"I suppose you're thinking the same old nonsense, aren't you?" she asked, looking as stern as her cameo beauty would allow.

"What am I supposed to do? Ask you to spend the rest of your life in a duplex with a mechanic for a husband?" I retorted.

CONTINUED

ENJOY STEADY PAY EVERY DAY AS A NURSE



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NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ ZONE___ STATE_____

I LOVE YOU, MR. JONES!

OH...I'M SORRY, MR. JONES! THE CONTRACTS FOR THE AJAX PHARMA-CEUTICAL JOB JUST CAME IN...

I LOVED HIM, MY BOSS MR. JONES... AND HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I EXISTED, EXCEPT AS AN EFFICIENT SECRETARY! HE WAS ENGAGED TO CLAIRE MARNEY, A GIRL WHOM I WAS SURE WAS IN LOVE WITH HIS WEALTH AND POSITION, NOT WITH HIM, SO I NEVER, BY WORD OR LOOK, LET HIM KNOW WHAT WAS IN MY HEART...

T-254 Jay Scott Pike

YOU ASKED ME TO BRING THEM TO YOU AS SOON AS THEY ARRIVED...

DIDN'T ANYONE TELL YOU THAT DOORS ARE MADE TO KNOCK ON, DEARIE!

I DID WANT THEM RIGHT AWAY! THANKS FOR BRINGING THEM IN, MISS FARRIN!

HOW CAN HE BE IN LOVE WITH A GIRL LIKE THAT? CAN'T HE SEE THAT SHE'S JUST A GOLDDIGGER, TAKING HIM FOR ALL SHE CAN.. INCLUDING MARRIAGE?

IT ISN'T FAIR FOR ME TO LOVE HIM SO MUCH AND NOT BE ABLE TO TELL HIM... AND FOR HIM NOT TO KNOW! I DON'T CARE ABOUT HIS WEALTH OR POSITION... I LOVE HIM FOR HIMSELF!

ELLA, HOW ABOUT A DATE TONIGHT?

ARE YOU KIDDING? YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT ELLA DOESN'T GO OUT ON DATES!

THAT'S RIGHT! SHE HAS A SECRET LOVE TO WHOM SHE'S ALWAYS FAITHFUL!

YOU COULD BE RIGHT, DAN!

I GUESS LOVE *IS* BLIND, OR AN INTELLIGENT MAN LIKE HE IS WOULD SEE THROUGH A GIRL LIKE CLAIRE MARNEY!

BUT, IN MY ROOM, ALONE, I HAD MY DREAMS, AND IN THEM THERE WAS NO ONE ELSE BUT US!

I LIVED FOR THE TIMES WHEN WE WERE ALONE IN HIS OFFICE WORKING TOGETHER!

WE MUST FIND A WAY TO PUT THIS DEAL OVER! IT WILL MEAN A LOT TO THE COMPANY!

IT WAS PARTICULARLY NICE TO BE NEAR HIM WHEN WE WORKED LATE TOGETHER AFTER THE REST OF THE OFFICE FORCE HAD LEFT!

THANKS FOR STAYING AFTER HOURS, MISS FARRIN! I'M SORRY TO HAVE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU THIS WAY...

I DONT MIND AT ALL, MR. JONES!

WELL, MISS FARRIN, YOU SEEM TO SPEND A LOT OF LATE TIME WITH YOUR BOSS! I THINK I SHOULD WARN YOU... HE'S MINE, AND YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE!

I KNOW THAT! IT'S STRICTLY BUSINESS BETWEEN US, MISS MARNEY! I WISH IT WEREN'T! I HATE TO SEE A GREEDY LITTLE GOLDDIGGER LIKE YOU GET HER HOOKS INTO A FINE MAN LIKE MR. JONES! HE DESERVES SOMEONE A LOT BETTER!

WELL, WELL, SHE'S IN LOVE WITH HER BOSS, JUST LIKE IN THE CHEAP LOVE STORIES!

ALL RIGHT, I'LL ADMIT I AM! BUT IT'S NOT CHEAP, AND IT'S NOT JUST BECAUSE HE'S MY BOSS AND WEALTHY! WOULD YOU GIVE HIM A TUMBLE IF HE WASN'T WEALTHY?

THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! HE'S MINE AND I'M GOING TO HOLD ONTO HIM!

REMEMBER, HANDS OFF!

YOU NEEDN'T WORRY! HE DOESN'T KNOW I'M ALIVE, EXCEPT AS A SECRETARY! I KNOW I HAVEN'T A CHANCE, BUT I HOPE HE SEES THROUGH YOU IN TIME, BECAUSE I KNOW YOU'LL MAKE HIS LIFE MISERABLE!

I WAS MISERABLE THAT NIGHT!

SHE'LL MAKE HIM FIRE ME AND I WON'T EVEN HAVE THE NEARNESS, THE SEEING HIM EVERY DAY, TO LOOK FORWARD TO!

THE NEXT MORNING, MR. JONES CALLED ME INTO HIS OFFICE!

THIS IS IT! HE'LL DISCHARGE ME NOW! I... I'LL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN, AND HE'LL NEVER KNOW HOW MUCH I LOVE HIM!

MISS FARRIN, GET YOUR HAT AND COAT! I WANT YOU TO HELP ME SELECT A VERY SPECIAL GIFT!

WHY... WHY CERTAINLY, MR. JONES!

HE TOOK ME TO THE FINEST FURRIERS IN TOWN!

DO YOU LIKE IT, MISS FARRIN?

IT... IT'S GORGEOUS!

TRY IT ON, PLEASE!

I... I CAN'T STAND IT! USING ME TO MODEL THE COAT HE'S GOING TO GIVE TO HER!

I SAID A VERY SPECIAL GIFT, AND IT IS! YOU SEE, I WANT TO GIVE THIS TO THE WOMAN I LOVE, THE WOMAN I HOPE WILL BE MY WIFE!

SHE SHOULD LOVE IT! IT..... IT'S WONDERFUL!

I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT! BECAUSE IT'S FOR YOU...ELLA!

BUT...BUT YOU SAID IT... IT WAS FOR...

FOR THE WOMAN I LOVE, THE WOMAN I HOPE TO MAKE MY WIFE...YOU, MY DEAR! I'VE BEEN IN LOVE WITH YOU FOR A LONG TIME, BUT YOU NEVER GAVE ANY INDICATION THAT YOU THOUGHT OF ME AS ANYTHING OTHER THAN YOUR BOSS!

BUT...BUT...

I HEARD OTHERS IN THE OFFICE TALK ABOUT YOU, THAT YOU NEVER WENT OUT ON DATES, THAT YOU HAD A SECRET LOVE! I THOUGHT THERE WAS NO CHANCE FOR ME!

I DID HAVE A SECRET LOVE! YOU, MR. JONES!

I KNOW THAT NOW BECAUSE I OVERHEARD YOU TELLING CLAIRE OFF! I KNEW THEN THAT YOU LOVED ME AS I LOVED YOU! YOU DO, DON'T YOU?

OH, YES! WITH ALL MY HEART, I LOVE YOU, MR. JONES!

UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, DON'T YOU THINK CALLING ME MR. JONES IS A LITTLE FORMAL! SAY IT AGAIN...AND KEEP ON SAYING IT FOR ALL OF TIME AS I WILL! I LOVE YOU, MY DARLING, ELLA!

AND I LOVE YOU... I DO!

MY HEART CRIED IN HAPPINESS AS HIS LIPS MET MINE! AND OVER AND OVER IN MY HEART I CRIED...."I LOVE YOU, MR. JONES!"

THE END

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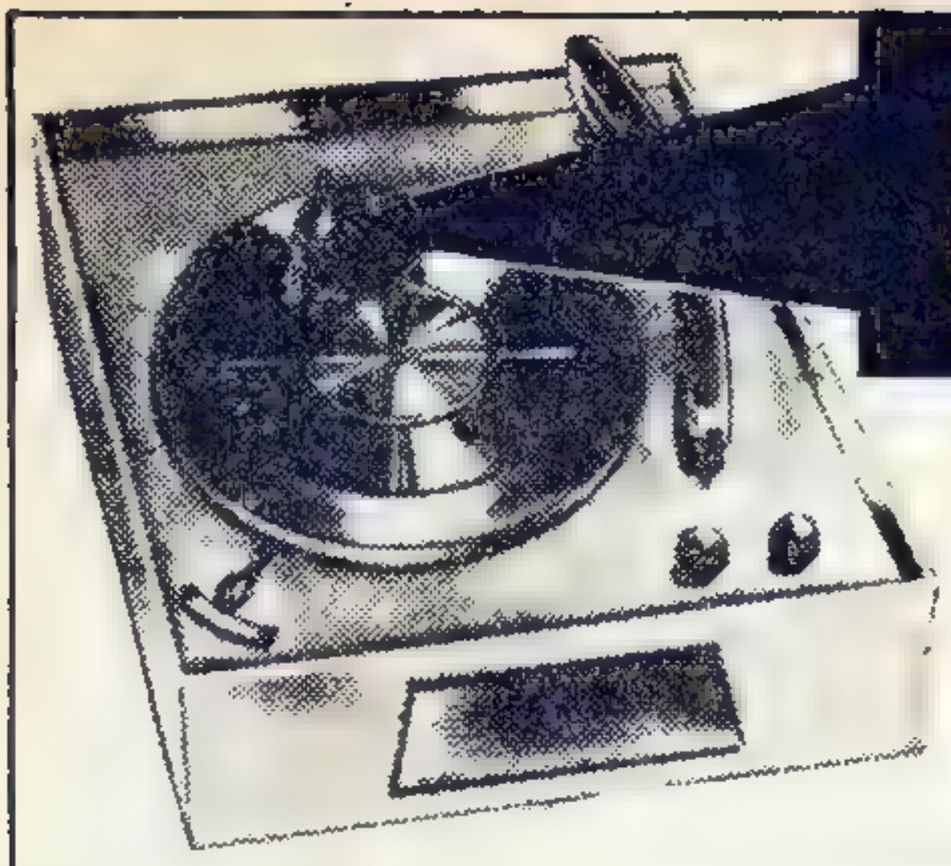

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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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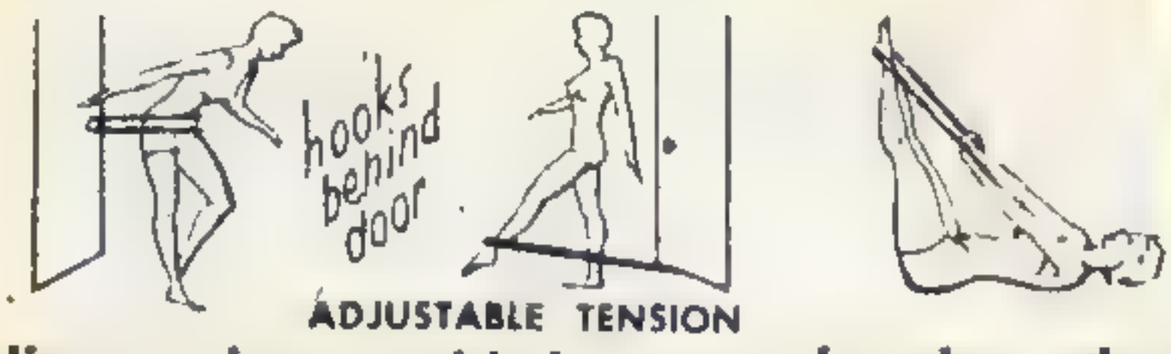

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Name.....

Address.....

I GUESS MY PROBLEMS WERE THE SAME AS ANY OTHER TEEN-AGER'S PROBLEMS! BUT I SUPPOSE EVERY ONE OF US THINKS THAT OUR OWN PROBLEM IS MORE INTENSE AND IMPORTANT THAN ANYONE ELSE'S! THIS IS THE STORY OF WHAT HAPPENED WHEN I FACED THE QUESTION SO MANY TEEN-AGERS FACE...

SHOULD A TEEN-AGER GO STEADY?

DON'T FORGET, DOT, WE'RE GOING TO JANE'S PARTY TONIGHT! PICK YOU UP AT EIGHT!

OKAY, BILLY!

I WAS READY THAT EVENING WHEN BILLY PICKED ME UP!

THIS SHOULD BE FUN! JANE ALWAYS THROWS A GOOD PARTY!

HEY, HERE COME BILLY AND DOT!

IT'S GETTING TO BE A THING BETWEEN THEM... BILLY AND DOT, LIKE HAM AND EGGS!

LIKE BILLY SAID, JANE'S PARTIES ALWAYS WERE FUN!

THANKS, BILLY! GOOD NIGHT!

WAIT A MINUTE, DOT!

DOT, WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A LONG TIME! WE GO EVERY PLACE TOGETHER! IN FACT MOST OF THE KIDS THINK WE'RE GOING STEADY! HOW ABOUT MAKING IT OFFICIAL... HOW ABOUT GOING STEADY WITH ME?

GEE, BILLY, I DON'T. THINK WE OUGHT TO REALLY GO STEADY! WE'RE TOO YOUNG FOR THAT!

BUT LOTS OF COUPLES OUR AGE GO STEADY!

WELL, I DON'T THINK IT'S RIGHT! IT'S TOO GROWN UP AND... AND SORT OF SOLEMN, LIKE A PROMISE OR SOMETHING!

WELL, OKAY, IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL ABOUT IT! 'NIGHT! SEE YOU!

BUT I DIDN'T SEE BILLY! HE DON'T COME AROUND ANY MORE, AND EVEN IN SCHOOL HE AVOIDED ME!

HEY, DOT, WE'RE HAVING A GET TOGETHER AT MY HOUSE TONIGHT! WHY DON'T YOU COME!

SURE, GRACE!

GRACE NEVER INVITED ME TO HER PLACE BEFORE! I THOUGHT SHE DIDN'T LIKE ME!

SURE SHE LIKES YOU! SHE DIDN'T LIKE BILLY! THAT'S THE WAY IT IS WHEN YOU GO STEADY! SOME OF THE KIDS DON'T INVITE YOU IF THEY DON'T LIKE YOUR STEADY! GRACE MUST'VE HEARD YOU BROKE OFF WITH BILLY!

BUT I WASN'T GOING STEADY WITH BILLY!

WELL, IT LOOKED LIKE IT... YOU WERE ALWAYS WITH HIM! SEE YOU TONIGHT!

THAT NIGHT, AT GRACE'S, IT SEEMED STRANGE NOT TO GO WITH BILLY!

GEE, IT ALMOST WAS AS THOUGH WE ***WERE*** GOING STEADY! BILLY TOOK ME ON ALL MY DATES... MAYBE I'VE LOST MY CHANCE FOR A LOT OF FUN BY ***NOT*** GOING STEADY WITH HIM!

HI, DOT! COME IN AND JOIN THE GANG!

COME ON, DOT, LET'S DANCE! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DANCE WITH YOU BUT YOU WERE ALWAYS WITH BILLY!

I DANCED WITH LOTS OF THE FELLOWS THAT NIGHT, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME REALIZED WHAT FUN SO MANY OF THEM WERE!

DOT, SOME OF THE GANG ARE GOING ON A PICNIC SATURDAY! HOW ABOUT JOINING US!

I'D LOVE IT!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

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THERE WERE PICNICS, OUTINGS, DANCING, SWIMMING, AND OH, SO MANY THINGS TO DO...

WHEN BILLY ASKED ME TO GO STEADY AND I REFUSED, I THOUGHT I'D LOST MY CHANCE FOR FUN! INSTEAD, I'M HAVING MORE FUN THAN EVER! IT SEEMS THAT WHEN A GIRL GOES STEADY, THE OTHER FELLOWS HAVE A HANDS-OFF POLICY!

...BUT WHEN THEY KNOW YOU'RE FREE, THEY ALL SHOW YOU A GOOD TIME! AND YOU REALIZE THAT THERE ARE SO MANY, MANY FELLOWS WHO ARE MORE FUN THEN THE ONE WHO TOOK UP ALL YOUR TIME!

DOT, HARRY WANTS ME TO GO STEADY WITH HIM! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!

DON'T YOU DO IT, MARY! YOU'LL HAVE MUCH MORE FUN IF YOU DON'T!

AND BESIDES, WE'RE TOO YOUNG TO GO STEADY! HAVE FUN! GO OUT WITH LOTS OF BOYS! IN THAT WAY YOU'LL NEVER BE TAKEN IN BY IMITATIONS; AND SOME DAY, WHEN THE REAL THING COMES ALONG, THE REAL LOVE, YOU'LL KNOW IT WITHOUT DOUBT!

the End

I DREAM TOO MUCH!

EVERY GIRL HAS HER DREAMS OF ROMANCE, AND I HAD MINE! IT WAS A VERY SPECIAL DREAM FOR A FARM GIRL! IN MY DREAM I HAD MY GREAT ROMANCE WITH A HANDSOME MAN FROM THE BIG CITY! BUT DREAMS, ALAS, ARE ALMOST ALWAYS JUST THE OPPOSITE FROM REALITY!

BOB FORGIONE

EVERY GIRL AWAKENS FROM HER DREAMS! I AWAKENED EARLY, FOR THERE WERE THE USUAL FARM CHORES TO DO, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS SUNDAY!

AND LATER, AS ON EVERY SUNDAY, LUKE HARRIS CAME TO TAKE ME TO CHURCH!

MORNING, SALLY! YOU'D BEST HURRY OR WE'LL BE LATE FOR THE SERMON!

WON'T TAKE ME BUT A FEW MINUTES TO GET DRESSED, LUKE!

AFTER CHURCH, LUKE AND I DROVE AROUND SLOWLY WHILE HE ADMIRED THE FARMS!

FINE FARMS, SALLY! SOME DAY I'LL HAVE A FARM LIKE ONE OF THESE! SEVEN OR EIGHT HUNDRED ACRES AND THE FINEST HERD OF BLACK ANGUS IN THE COUNTRY!

AND AS ALWAYS WE STOPPED FOR AWHILE BY THE LAKE, AND...

I WAS TORN BETWEEN THE DREAM THAT I LONGED FOR SO DESPERATELY AND MY LOVE FOR LUKE!

SALLY, DEAR, YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU! YOU'RE THE ONLY GIRL IN THE WORLD FOR ME! WHEN WILL YOU MARRY ME?

I LOVE YOU TOO, LUKE! BUT PLEASE DON'T RUSH ME! I'VE GOT TO HAVE MORE TIME! I'LL GIVE YOU YOUR ANSWER SOON!

WHAT SHOULD I DO? I LOVE LUKE, BUT IF I MARRY HIM THE POSSIBILITY THAT MY DREAM MAY COME TRUE IS ENDED! I'LL NEVER GET TO LIVE IN THE CITY AND LIVE A CITY LIFE!

I'LL SPEND MY LIFE ON A FARM WITH ALL THE DRUDGERY SUCH A LIFE BRINGS! I WAS BROUGHT UP AND LIVED ALL MY LIFE ON A FARM, YET I KNOW THAT IT ISN'T THE LIFE FOR ME!

AND SO MY DREAM CONTINUED...

MAMBO LA SAMBA

AND YET, WHEN LUKE TOOK ME IN HIS ARMS AND KISSED ME, THE DREAM VANISHED AND ALL I KNEW WAS MY LOVE FOR HIM!

THERE CAME A TIME WHEN I MUST MAKE MY DECISION, TO FACE FACTS AND THE TRUTH SQUARELY!

I MUST FACE IT! MY DREAM IS ONLY THAT... AN IMPOSSIBLE DREAM THAT WILL NEVER COME TRUE! AND I DO LOVE LUKE!

SO I TOLD LUKE THAT I WOULD MARRY HIM, AND THOUGH I KNEW HAPPINESS FOR THE THOUGHT OF BEING NEAR HIM AND SHARING MY LIFE WITH HIM, I PREPARED MYSELF FOR A LIFE OF FARM DRUDGERY!

DARLING, I'LL DO MY BEST ALWAYS TO MAKE YOU HAPPY!

WE WERE MARRIED IN THE LITTLE CHURCH WE ALWAYS ATTENDED!

YOU ALL PACKED FOR OUR HONEYMOON, DARLING?

YES! BUT WHERE ARE WE GOING? WHY ARE YOU SO MYSTERIOUS ABOUT IT?

WELL, YOU SEE, THIS HONEYMOON IS GOING TO BE A LONG ONE...PROBABLY LAST FOR YEARS AND YEARS! AND... WELL, YOU'RE A FARM GIRL AND I WASN'T SURE YOU'D LIKE THE IDEA OF WHERE WE'RE GOING, AND...

WHAT IS ALL THIS, LUKE HARRIS?

JUST THIS, SALLY! WE'RE LEAVING HERE FOR GOOD! WE'RE GOING TO THE CITY TO LIVE! I'VE BEEN OFFERED, AND HAVE ACCEPTED, A FINE POSITION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TO DO EXPERIMENTAL WORK IN THEIR LABORATORY IN THE CITY!

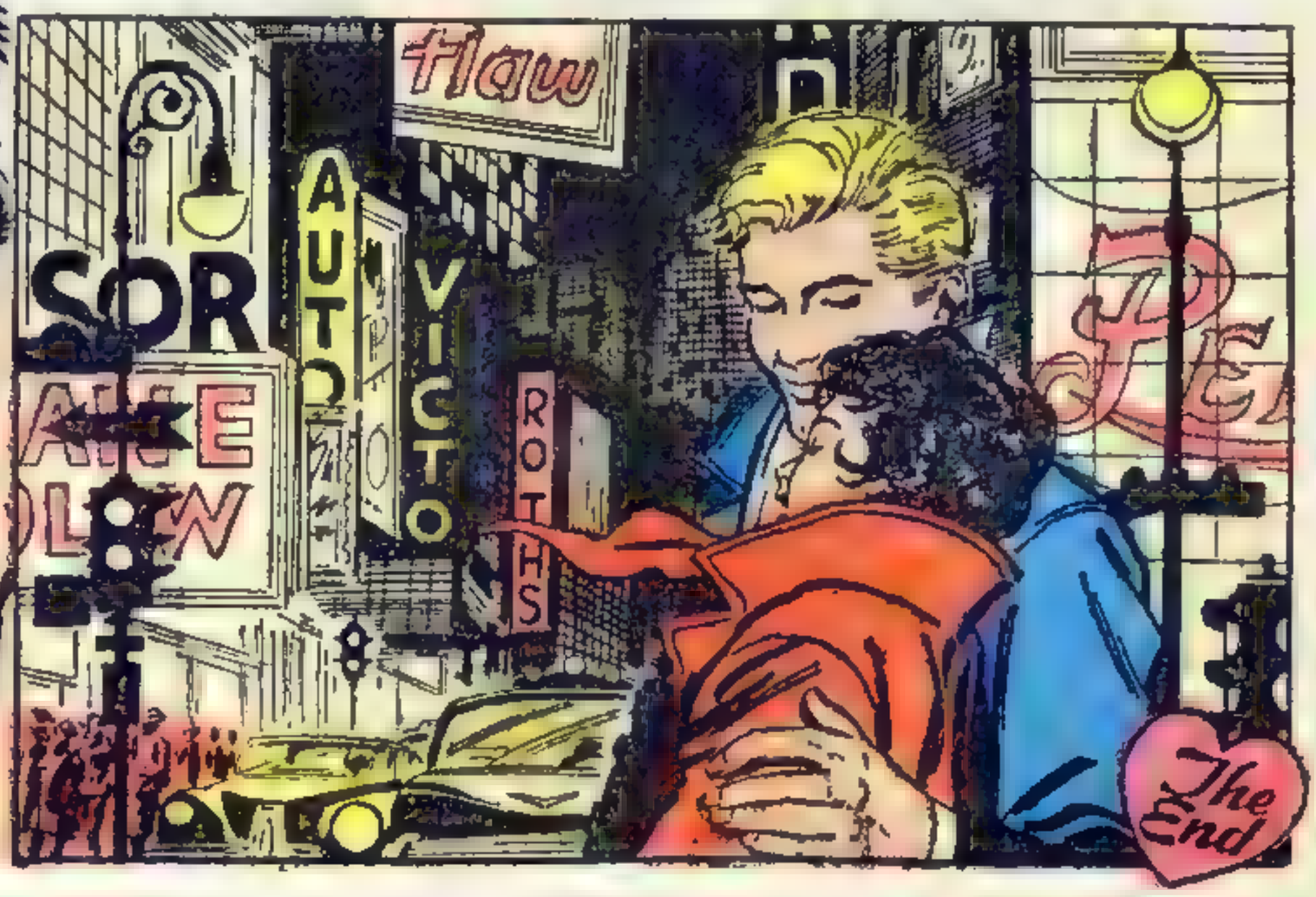
IT'S THE SORT OF WORK I'VE ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN!

BUT... BUT WHAT ABOUT THE BIG FARM WITH THE BEST BLACK ANGUS HERD, AND...

SHUCKS, HONEY, THAT CAN WAIT UNTIL WE GET A LOT OLDER AND WANT TO GO BACK TO THE LAND AGAIN AND SETTLE DOWN... IF WE EVER WANT TO! LIKE I SAID, YOU BEING A FARM GIRL I DIDN'T KNOW HOW YOU'D TAKE THE IDEA OF LIVING IN THE CITY AND...

TAKE IT? I ADORE IT! OH, LUKE, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW HAPPY YOU'VE MADE ME!

NO, I NEVER TOLD LUKE ABOUT MY DREAM BECAUSE IT WAS GONE... TURNED INTO REALITY! YES, I AM THE LUCKIEST OF GIRLS... I HAVE MY DREAM AND MY LOVE TOGETHER, AND I'LL NEVER HAVE TO DREAM AGAIN!



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CONTINUED

"There's the scholarship," she insisted.

"I can't take it and you know it. Somebody's got to pay for Jimmy's operations and I've been elected. Oh, look, Vicki, let's not talk about it any more. When you come back, if you come back, I'll be waiting," I said and gathered her into my arms, holding her tightly as though it would help press the ache out of my chest.

That was a year ago. The longest year of mere existence I hope ever to have. Watching my brother get well helped, and going to night school cut down the number of hours left to think about Vicki. Did she still feel the same? She said so in her letters, but they were getting more and more infrequent.

When June came I met the reason for Vicki's lax correspondence. his name was Carlton — Carlton Richard Thorndike, III, fresh out of prep school and fresh out of good manners. He wore his snobbery like his school tie, a badge of supposed distinction and superiority.

I wish Vicki had waited until I got the grease off my face before introducing us, but with her usual impulsiveness she just turned up with him, sitting like a Great Dane next to her in the car.

"Hi, Johnny!" she called. "Where are you?"

"Here!" I bellowed from under a car and crawled out. The smile faded when I saw her companion.

"This is Carlton. He's going to spend a few weeks. Carlton, this is Johnny Creighton. You've heard enough about him to be old friends," Vicki said warmly.

"Yes. You were right, Victoria. He does have a rugged quality," Carlton returned and ignored my extended hand.

I lowered my arm and rubbed my hand over my overalls.

"You'll have the most charming company in the world for a few weeks," I said, not daring to look at his arrogant profile for fear I'd give into the desire to rearrange it.

"Johnny, what a nice thing for you to say," Vicki replied, finally sensing the tension between Thorndike and me.

"Sorry to cut the conversation short, but I've got to finish this job," I mumbled, feeling the blood rush to my face. "See you around, Vicki," I finished and turned away, hurrying up the ramp before she could answer.

"I'll be waiting," she called at my back, but I couldn't look around. Tears of helpless rage brimmed in my eyes and I swallowed them back. Nobody needed to say it. We both knew this was the end of a very old romance.

When Prof. Andrews told me I had been awarded the four year scholarship to the university's school of architectural design, I suppose I should have let out a loud whoop of joy. I think I was more relieved than happy. It meant getting away from all the people and places that reminded me of Vicki. Now her letters could be returned unopened and unread and I could forget the whole thing once and for all.

Her last letter was from Venice, Italy. She was a strange girl, leaving school in the middle of examinations and going to Europe. Well, there would be a lot of nice, young millionaires' sons just waiting for a girl like Vicki to walk on board their yachts.

Some people say architects are a race unto themselves. I guess I must have looked a little mad in my battered tweed jacket, in shreds at the elbows with a three-day or three-weeks' growth of beard. Sometimes I even forgot to comb my hair or find out what day it was, but I was learning more architecture than I had dreamed existed in books and in men's imaginations. This was the most exciting time of my life, except for the dull pain called Vicki that was constantly there like a hunger pang.

Yesterday ended my third year. I was standing by myself on the steps of the library when a small figure emerged out of the darkness.

"Vicki!" I finally managed to say.

"Yes, darling," she replied softly putting her arms around my neck. "The last time I told you I'd be waiting you wouldn't listen, but that was three years ago. Perhaps if I say it a hundred times every day for the next year, you'll believe it."

THE END D-349

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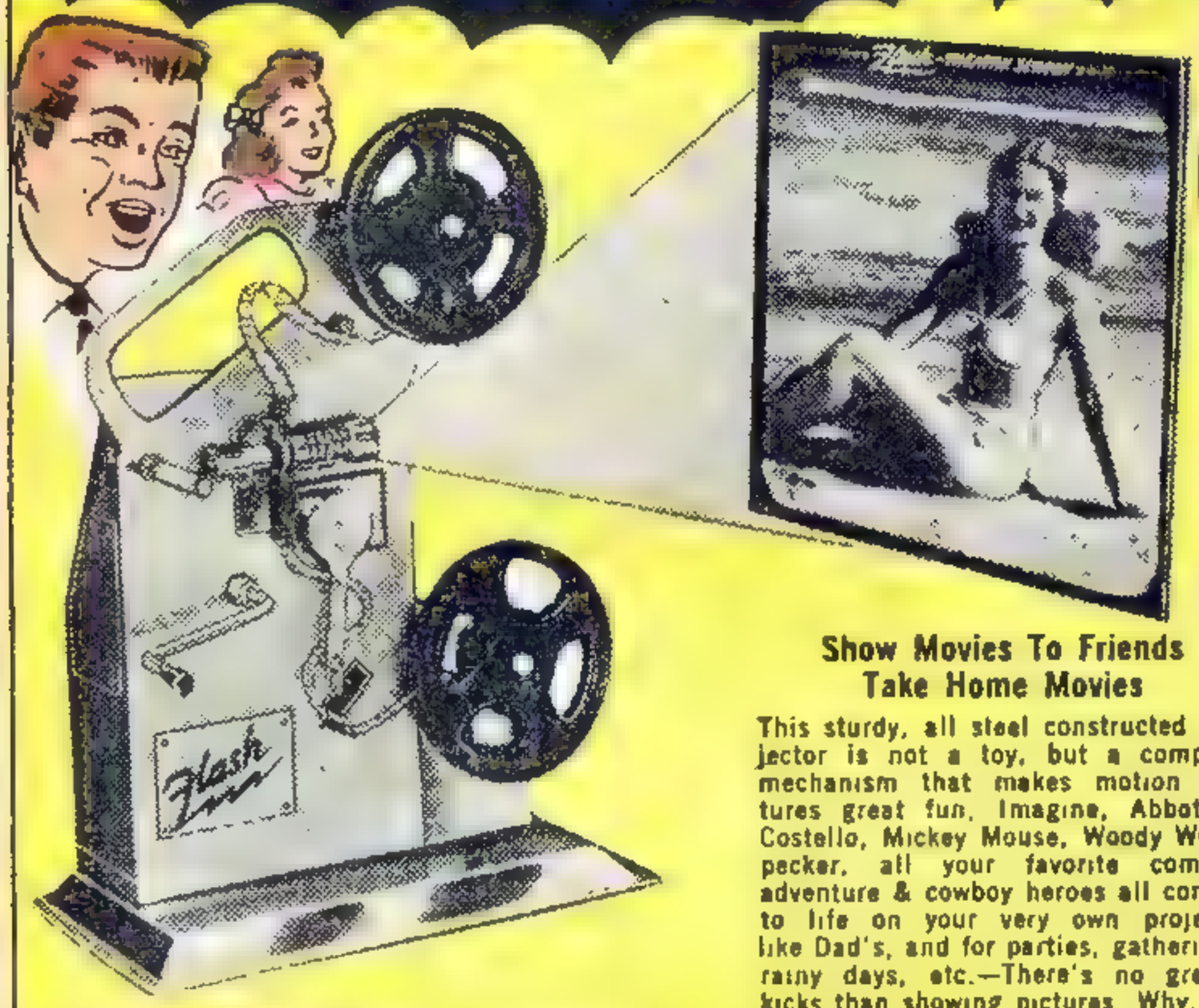

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CAN A SHY GIRL find ROMANCE?

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SHY AND UNCOMFORTABLE IN THE PRESENCE OF BOYS! MY PARENTS TOLD ME TIME WOULD CURE ME, BUT IT DIDN'T! I WAS A JUNIOR AT HUBBARD CO-ED UNIVERSITY AND I HADN'T HAD A DATE IN THREE YEARS! I LIVED IN QUIET DESPAIR WONDERING IF I'D EVER FIND ROMANCE, THE KIND OF LOVE EVERY GIRL DREAMS OF!

COME ON, JAN, I'LL GET YOU A DATE!

NO THANKS, MARGE! I'D RATHER STAY IN AND STUDY!

GEE, JAN, I'VE BEEN YOUR ROOMMATE ALL THROUGH COLLEGE AND I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU WITH A BOY! DON'T YOU LIKE BOYS?

I GUESS I LIKE SOME OF THEM!

THE TROUBLE IS, I FREEZE UP WITH A BOY! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY! I'M UNCOMFORTABLE AND IT MAKES HIM UNCOMFORTABLE AND... THAT'S THE END OF THAT! I'M SHY, MARGE, AND I'LL NEVER GET OVER IT!

T-255

WELL, I'LL BE LATE FOR MY DATE! TOMORROW YOU CAN HELP ME BONE UP FOR THE ENGLISH EXAM! IT CERTAINLY IS KEEN TO HAVE THE BEST STUDENT IN THE SCHOOL FOR A ROOMMATE!

MARGE LEFT! I WATCHED HER FROM THE WINDOW...

THEY SEEM TO HAVE SUCH A WONDERFUL TIME!

I WONDER IF I'LL EVER MEET A BOY WHO'LL SEE BE-NEATH MY SHYNESS AND LIKE ME--A BOY WHO WILL BRING ME THE ROMANCE I LONG FOR?

AND FOR A MOMENT I FORGOT MY BOOKS IN A DREAM... THE DREAM THAT HAD COME TO ME SO OFTEN OF LATE!

IT WAS A DREAM THAT HAD NO SUB-STANCE, FOR THE ELEMENTS OF EXPERI-ENCE WERE LACKING, AND SO IT FADED FAST... TO LEAVE ONLY DRAB REALITY!

AT LEAST IN MY STUDIES I COULD PUSH AWAY THE LONGINGS AND DREAMS! MY BOOKS AND WHAT THEY HELD WERE AN ESCAPE FROM THE WORLD OF REALITY! THAT WAS WHY I STUDIED SO ARDENTLY AND HAD THE HIGHEST SCHO-LASTIC AVERAGE IN THE SCHOOL!

THE HOURS PASSED! MARGE RETURNED!

LOOK, JAN, TICKETS FOR THE GAME SATURDAY! NOW DON'T SAY YOU WON'T GO! WE'LL GO ALONE! YOU CAN'T KEEP YOUR NOSE STUCK IN A BOOK FOREVER!

SATURDAY DAWNED CLEAR AND COOL! SINCE THERE WEREN'T GOING TO BE ANY BOYS WITH US I WENT TO THE GAME WITH MARGE!

HERE THEY COME! HURRAY FOR HUBBARD U.!

JAN, CAST YOUR EYES ON OUR CAPTAIN, HUGH FOREST! EVERY GIRL IN THE SCHOOL IS CRAZY ABOUT HIM BUT HE DOESN'T DATE ANY OF THEM!

I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING FROM HERE BUT A HELMET AND BIG SHOULDERS!

I WATCHED THE GAME, BUT SOON I WAS WATCHING ONLY HUGH FOREST, AND I REALIZED, EVEN WITHOUT SEEING HIS FACE, WHY THE GIRLS WERE CRAZY ABOUT HIM! HIS MUSCULAR COORDINATION WAS SUPERB! HE MOVED WITH THE GRACE AND POWER OF A PANTHER!

AFTER THE GAME I WENT BACK TO OUR ROOM! BUT I COULDN'T STUDY! I KEPT THINKING AND SEEING AGAIN, THAT BEAUTIFULLY BALANCED FIGURE ON THE PLAYING FIELD!

AND SUDDENLY, UNBIDDEN, ANOTHER SCENE FORMED IN MY MIND, AND AS IT CAME A BLUSH CAME WITH IT!

I...I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE! WE DON'T EVEN KNOW EACH OTHER! I'M A SILLY GIRL!

THE NEXT DAY IN CHEMISTRY, THE REST OF THE CLASS HAD LEFT BUT I WAS FINISHING AN EXPERIMENT! IT WAS THEN THAT I FIRST SAW HUGH FORREST!

HUGH, I'M AFRAID YOU WON'T BE PLAYING FOOTBALL, OR BASKETBALL MUCH LONGER UNLESS YOUR MARKS IMPROVE! YOU NEED SOME OUTSIDE TUTORING!

IT WAS AS THOUGH SOMEONE ELSE SPOKE, NOT ME! IT WAS THE SORT OF THING A SHY GIRL LIKE ME NEVER DOES, YET, I DID IT!

I'D BE GLAD TO TUTOR HIM, MR. MARLOWE!

THAT'S A SPLENDID IDEA, HUGH! JAN BONNER IS THE BEST STUDENT IN THE SCHOOL! SHE CAN SAVE YOU!

THIS IS SWELL OF YOU! I'M NOT ACTUALLY STUPID, BUT THE ONLY WAY I COULD AFFORD TO GET IN HUBBARD WAS THROUGH AN ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP AND PRACTICING TAKES UP SO MUCH OF MY TIME I HAVEN'T ANY TIME LEFT FOR STUDY!

I SEE...

HE WAS QUIET AND MODEST, NOT LIKE I HAD IMAGINED A COLLEGE HERO TO BE! WE SPENT A GOOD DEAL OF TIME TOGETHER IN THE LIBRARY WHERE I HELPED HIM IN HIS STUDIES!

JAN, YOU'RE THE ENVY OF EVERY GIRL IN THE SCHOOL... THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS EVER HAD A DATE WITH THE HERO!

WE'D BETTER GET ON WITH YOUR POPULATION DRIFT STUDIES...

AW, TEACHER, I'M JUST CRAMMED WITH KNOWLEDGE! LOOK, IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY! LET'S TAKE A WALK TO GET RID OF THE COB-WEBS AND THEN COME BACK!

Y'KNOW, YOU'RE THE FIRST GIRL I'VE SPENT ANY TIME WITH SINCE I CAME TO HUBBARD! YOU SEE... I DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH GIRLS ...ALL EXCEPT YOU, THAT IS!

I'VE NEVER BEEN OUT WITH ANY OF THE BOYS, EITHER! I'M SHY, TOO! BUT SOMEHOW I DON'T FEEL SHY WITH YOU! I DON'T KNOW WHY!

I THINK MAYBE I KNOW, AND I HOPE IT'S FOR THE SAME REASON!

I DON'T FEEL SHY WITH YOU BECAUSE... BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, JAN!

HUGH, I NEVER THOUGHT, I NEVER DREAMED...

HE CLOSED MY LIPS WITH HIS, AND WITH THAT KISS I KNEW THAT I LOVED HIM, TOO!

HUGH! DEAR HUGH!

DARLING, WITH YOUR HELP, I'LL GRADUATE THIS YEAR! I'LL GET SETTLED IN BUSINESS THIS YEAR, AND BY THE TIME YOU GRADUATE OUR FUTURE WILL BE ASSURED AND WE CAN GET MARRIED!

HE HELD ME CLOSE AND KISSED ME AGAIN, A KISS THAT TOLD ME OF THE FUTURE; I HAD FOUND THE ROMANCE I HAD LONGED FOR! HOW STRANGE IT WAS THAT I, THE SHY GIRL, SHOULD HAVE THE LOVE OF THE MAN WHOM SO MANY OTHER GIRLS WANTED... ALL HIS LOVE, ALWAYS!

THE END

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SEND NO MONEY

You need send no money with the coupon below. When postman delivers your Keraplex lotion (in plain wrapper marked "Personal"), deposit with him only the modest price indicated below, plus a few cents postage. Then use your Keraplex morning and night for a full week, following the simple directions which will be enclosed.

If you do not SEE RESULTS that delight you — if you are not fully convinced that Keraplex IS clearing up your complexion — just return the empty bottle or unused portion and the purchase price will be refunded in full. Don't delay a single day. The longer you let your skin troubles go, the more difficult it will be to clear them up and get your complexion back to a healthy, clear, unblemished condition! Clip and mail the coupon TODAY. Underwood Laboratories, Inc., Stratford, Conn.

BEFORE

Note more than a dozen blemishes on just one side of this girl's face before KERAPLEX was applied.

AFTER

Same girl had used KERAPLEX twice a day for only 5 days when above photo was taken. Note the amazing improvement.

BEFORE

This young man suffered from a severe case of acne for years and tried all the usual "remedies" without success.

AFTER

Same young man after using KERAPLEX twice a day for just one week. Notice the decided improvement—pimples completely gone!

WHAT USERS SAY:

"I was suffering from a severe case of acne . . . and with only 4 days' treatment with Keraplex . . . was completely relieved."—P. S.

"I have been completely satisfied with your lotion to help clear up the pimples on my face."—K. W.

"I have used Keraplex and for the first time in my life my pimples are clearing up in good shape. I can't thank you enough!"—E. S.

MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

UNDERWOOD LABORATORIES, Inc., Dept. 220
STRATFORD, CONN.

Yes! I want to try Keraplex ON APPROVAL. Send size checked below in plain wrapper marked "personal." When it is delivered I will deposit with postman amount indicated below, plus postage. If not delighted with the RESULTS, I will return empty bottle within seven days for a full refund of the purchase price.

☐ Regular Size, $1.98
☐ Double Quantity (Two Bottles), $3.50

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ Zone_____ State_____

☐ SAVE POSTAGE. Check here if you ENCLOSE payment, in which case we pay postage. Same money-back Guarantee applies!

Payment must be sent with orders going to A.P.O.'s, Canada and foreign countries, due to postal rules.

ADVERTISEMENT

DO YOU WANT SPENDING MONEY?

Sell these popular Patriotic and Religious Mottoes

SEND US NO MONEY IN ADVANCE

Just write and ask us to send you 40 of these beautiful glittering mottoes which the public likes so well. Sell them easily and quickly to your friends and neighbors for only 35¢ each. At the end of 14 days send back, if you wish, all mottoes you have not sold, and send us only 25¢ for each you have sold. You keep all the rest of the money.

IF YOU SELL 25, YOU KEEP $2.50

IF YOU SELL 30, YOU KEEP $3.00

IF YOU SELL ALL 40 YOU KEEP $4.00

REMEMBER: No money is needed in advance. You take no risks. You can return all the mottoes you do not sell. You do not pay shipping costs or split your commission. You keep all the profit on each sale.

WRITE FOR COMPLETE DETAILS TO ⇨

STEPHENS CREDIT SALES

Dept. YB P. O. Box 1004

Nashville , Tennessee

"We're looking for people who like to draw"

By ALBERT DORNE
Famous Magazine Illustrator

Do you like to draw or paint? If you do – America's 12 Most Famous Artists are looking for you. We'd like to help you find out if you have talent worth developing.

Here's why we make this offer. About ten years ago, my colleagues and I realized that too many people were missing wonderful careers in art . . . either because they hesitated to think they had talent . . . or because they couldn't get top-notch professional art training without leaving home or giving up their jobs.

the top. Then — illustrating this knowledge with over 5,000 special drawings and paintings – we created a complete course of art training that folks all over the country could take right in their own homes and in their spare time.

Our training has helped thousands of men and women win the creative satisfactions and the cash rewards of part-time or full-time art careers. Here are just a few:

Don Smith lives in New Orleans. Three years ago Don knew nothing about art – even doubted he had talent. Today, he is an illustrator with a leading advertising agency – and has a future as big as he wants to make it.

Helps Design New Cars

Halfway through our training, Don Golemba of Detroit landed a job in the styling department of a major automobile company. Now he helps design new car models.

Harriet Kuzniewski was bored with an "ordinary" job when she sent for our talent test. Soon after she began our training, she was offered a job as a fashion artist. A year later, she became assistant art director of a big buying office.

John Whitaker of Memphis was an airline clerk when he began studying with us. Recently, a huge syndicate signed him to do a daily comic strip.

Earns Seven Times as Much

Eric Ericson of Minneapolis was a

[illegible] mother, Elizabeth Mc-[illegible], now adds to her family's income by designing greeting cards and illustrating children's books.

Cowboy Starts Art Business

Donald Kern – a Montana cowboy – studied with us. Now he paints portraits, sells them for $250 each. And he gets all the business he can handle.

Gertrude Vander Poel had never drawn a thing until she started studying with us. Now a swank New York gallery exhibits her paintings for sale.

Free Art Talent Test

How about you? Wouldn't you like to find out if you have talent worth training for a full-time or part-time art career? Simply send for our revealing 12-page talent test. Thousands paid $1 for this test, but we'll send it to you free. If you show promise, you'll be eligible for at-home training under the program we direct. No obligation. Mail the coupon today.

America's 12 Most Famous Artists

ALBERT DORNE

NORMAN ROCKWELL

JON WHITCOMB

AL PARKER

HAROLD VON SCHMIDT

STEVAN DOHANOS

ROBERT FAWCETT

BEN STAHL

DONG KINGMAN

AUSTIN BRIGGS

FAMOUS ARTISTS SCHOOLS
Studio 848 Westport, Conn.

Send me, without obligation, your Famous Artists Talent Test.

Mr.
Mrs. .....Age.....
Miss (please print)

Address .....

City .....Zone.....

County .....State.....